

Gerard's Revelations Halt Peace Moves in Britain

Exposure of Hollweg's Views on Belgium a Blow to Pacifists Forced to Rebuild Entire Platform

Victories at Front Now Causing Optimism in England

By Arthur S. Draper

LONDON, Aug. 25.—Ex-Ambassador Gerard's revelations regarding former Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's views on Belgium and the German designs have been a severe blow to the advocates of peace by negotiation. Nothing that has been said or written recently has had so profound an effect on peace manœuvres. Knowing Hollweg as a Liberal and Moderate, opposed to the extreme views of the pan-German pacifist element here has been forced to rebuild its whole platform. Even Massingham, in "The Nation," comments:

"Of course, they flatly contradict the assurances Scheidemann (Socialist leader) continually gave in the Chancellor's behalf. Even allowing for the inevitable bargain, the German government cannot possibly have expected the Entente to confer on these terms. Did it try to seem more truculent than it really was after its offer of peace failed? If the Chancellor was maneuvering he is suitably punished. These terms were probably the decisive factor in driving Wilson into unlimited participation in the war."

Local Situation Easier

With activities in the war theatres reaching unprecedented heights of fury, the situation in domestic problems has been eased. The adjournment of Parliament has eased the local situation, certainly in so far as surface indications are a true index of conditions. Military experts regard the fighting as eminently satisfactory, and prophesy confidently that 1918 will bring rich dividends on the investments being made now.

In addition to the rich hauls of prisoners by the French, Italians and British, the capture of valuable positions and the infliction of heavy casualties on the enemy forces, the experts turn to a detailed study of the German communications, and when the tide turned against the enemy his communications were no better than those of the Allies, and now with the tide running strongly against him, his reports are upgrated frequently and are deliberately untruthful. Nothing is considered more significant than this uncertainty of the high command.

The changes in military fortunes reflect a corresponding change in Germany's war aims. The Social-Democratic minority, which first advocated the status quo for peace, has now enrolled the bulk of the Central Powers and many Liberals. This marks a decided change from the fall of 1914 and the spring of 1915, when the government prohibited even a discussion of the war aims, because they expected to win more even than the pan-Germans' highest pre-war hopes.

Aims of the Pan-Germans

Against the status quo advocates are the pan-Germans, who want to fight for one or all of the following: First, sea power and annexations in the west, including the Belgian coast, with possibly a strip of the French coast; second, a Mittel-Europa; third, Berlin to Baghdad, with control of the Ottoman Empire; fourth, an African empire reaching across the continent from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic, and, fifth, annexations of Russian Courland and Lithuania for agricultural colonization by Germans.

Things have gone badly for the German government since mid-July, but the influence only seems to stiffen the ruling classes, perhaps because they see no way out except a fight to a finish. With a stiffening government has come a sharp tussle between the government and the pan-Germans on the one side and the peace advocates on the other. It seems fairly plain that the bulk of the people want a negotiated peace, while the government is determined upon a policy of annexation. This was the Reichstag's decision, showed that the latter forces are gaining strength and courage. Whether a political upheaval has been simply postponed or whether the

government is as strong as ever only time will tell.

Here there is a class which still believes that Allied diplomacy can help the armies hasten peace in the interests of the world, though Gerard's exposure has shaken their confidence severely. In every comment on war and peace America now figures. All prophecies of future military developments are based on the idea that America will have a powerful army, a mighty air fleet and big storehouses open early next year.

It is the same with all peace questions. America can give the lead there. Her strength unites the Allies, and any sign of weakness in her spirit is reflected immediately in her comrades in arms. It will be a bitter winter for Europe, and America must give heartily from all her resources, not the least of which is courage and determination.

Michaelis Failed To Make Definite Stand on Peace

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 25.—A careful perusal of the mass of reports and comments on the committee meetings yesterday and Wednesday shows that Chancellor Michaelis, throughout conferences with party leaders, did not change his attitude regarding the wording of his ambiguous speech of July 19, and the situation, so far as pinning him down to any definite peace programme, remains exactly where it was when he assumed office.

It was brought out yesterday that the majority party representatives endeavored before the Reichstag meeting July 19 to secure from him definite assurances, but failed.

Erzberger, the Socialist leader, alone declared in yesterday's committee sitting that doubt as to the Chancellor's acceptance of the principle of peace without annexations and indemnities now had been eliminated for good. All other views ranged from mild doubt and open skepticism to flat denial.

"Vorwärts," the Socialist organ, is inclined to give the Chancellor the benefit of the doubt, but demands that he defend his political integrity and good faith against Pan-German machinations by a plain and unequivocal statement that he does not hold ideas of annexation and conquest, which these elements attribute to him.

The Berlin "Tagblatt" says the crisis is only adjourned. Haussmann in the committee yesterday declared that the Chancellor had introduced elements of doubt and uncertainty into the interpretation of the Reichstag resolution, had allowed the Conservatives to claim him as their own man without a word of protest, and had done nothing to shake off the assertion of the Pan-Germans that he was playing a false game in politics.

The Chancellor on Wednesday, as on the day when he assumed office, demanded elbow room for peace negotiations, but the majority leaders, then declared, expressly that there could be no question of such elbow room and that peace must be made on the basis specified in the resolution. They warned Dr. Michaelis of the danger of departing therefrom.

The Pan-German press generally assumes that the Chancellor has resented the right to negotiate a victorious peace, regardless of interference by the Reichstag.

Munich Committee Insists on Indemnities For Germany

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 25.—The Munich Independent Committee for German Peace again strongly protests in the press against a peace without indemnities. It points out that the public wealth of Germany just previous to the outbreak of the war was estimated at about \$30,000,000,000, which half has been wiped out by war expenditures.

To pay interest on the redemption of that huge loss, the committee says, it would be necessary to raise by taxation \$2,000,000,000 annually, whereas the imperial budget heretofore has been only \$75,000,000, and it is impossible to raise it beyond \$1,500,000,000.

The committee declares as fallacious the popular idea that the capitalists ultimately will foot the bill, as even the confiscation of all the landed fortunes in Germany would cover only a small fraction of the war burden. Without indemnities, it asserts, the less well-to-do persons will be the sufferers in the inevitable period of grinding poverty and crushing taxation.

Bulgars Seek Peace, But Will Fight On

SOFIA, Aug. 25 (via Berlin and London).—"We want peace, and desire to end this terrible bloodshed," said Premier Radoslawoff, in an interview with the Papal peace使者. "We have been emphasizing this attitude for more than a year," he continued. "Last December we offered peace to the Entente, but it preferred to continue the war. In the nine months intervening our military situation has become nine times more favorable, and every day proves it is becoming still stronger."

"I do not believe that the Pope sought to get in contact with the different governments heretofore transmitting the note, for the purpose of discovering if they desired peace. The Entente appears to make every effort to prepare public opinion for a brusque refusal of Papal mediation, whereas the Central Powers welcome it with sincere sympathy."

"The Central Powers will make concrete proposals in keeping with the Papal note, and will answer it individually. Whether peace will come soon or not, we want peace, but are calmer than ever, nor are we asking for peace. For the benefit of mankind, we desire peace to come soon, and unless this occurs before long the Entente alone will have occasion to regret it."

Dutch Reject Berlin's Excuse for Air Raid

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 25.—The Foreign Ministry, in an official communication, says that in response to the protest of the Dutch government against a flight over Dutch territory on August 18 by an air squadron, which dropped bombs, Germany has expressed regrets and explained that a channel squadron had lost its way in the thick clouds.

The Dutch Minister at Berlin has been instructed to inform the German government that this explanation does not justify a flight over Zealand and the provinces of Friesland and Groningen by two planes, one of which descended and the other of which was shot down. The minister is charged to renew the protest against the violation of Dutch territory by the dropping of bombs.

At the same time the Dutch minister to Great Britain, France and Belgium are instructed to ask these governments if airplanes of theirs, by participation in an air engagement, were culpable. In the meantime an examination is being made of portions of the bombs employed.

FOUR WAR LEADERS OF THE ALLIES AT THE FRONT



Left to right—M. Thomas, of the French Cabinet; General Sir Douglas Haig, the British Commander-in-Chief; Marshal Joffre, of France, and the British Premier, Lloyd George, in a spirited conference on the Western front.

U. S. Can't State Peace Terms Now, Asserts Redfield

Suggestions Now a Trap for Unwary, the Secretary Declares

Suggestions of peace at this period of the war were characterized by William C. Redfield, Secretary of Commerce, as "a trap for the unwary," in a letter to Assemblyman Nathan B. Shapiro, of Brooklyn, made public here last night. Secretary Redfield declared the United States is in the war until "autocracy will never again lift its head to threaten man."

Mr. Redfield's letter was in reply to one Mr. Shapiro had written to him, stating that numerous persons in his district were eager to know what action they might expect from the Washington Administration concerning the peace proposal from the Vatican.

"The suggestion that our country now state candidly its terms of peace is a trap for the unwary," Mr. Redfield wrote. "It is that which Germany would like to have us do. To urge it brings aid and comfort to the Kaiser's cause, because in so doing we cloud the issue and lose the substance in the shadow."

War To Be His Vacation

When Patrolman Tracy A. Hamilton resigned for reserve duty at the East Fifty-first Street station last night, Captain Duggan told him he was free to go on his vacation.

"My vacation, captain, is going to exceed the seven days Commissioner Woods has allotted to patrolmen—it's going to last just so long as the Kaiser refuses to say, 'I'm licked.' I've enlisted in the navy," Hamilton replied as he unrolled his shield.

"Before autocracy, Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro and Poland have gone down. With it the Turk has normally allied himself, and the massacres of Armenia respond to the rape of Belgium."

"Autocracy has adopted frightfulness as its watchword, and in the name of frightfulness it murders women and children in defenceless towns, sinks hospital ships which carry its own wounded, and sends women and children to watery graves so that it may have its own ruthless way upon the seas."

"Autocracy attacks democracy defiantly. No man but knows that every Allied nation sought only peace, and autocracy was the aggressor."

King Albert Grateful For Pope's Interest

HAVRE, Aug. 25.—An official note issued by the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs to-day says that the Pope's message to the heads of the belligerent peoples concerning peace has been received by the King of the Belgians through the Belgian Minister to the Vatican.

In acknowledging receipt of the Pontifical document, the King and government render homage to the lofty sentiments which inspired the note and express gratitude for "the particular interest which the Holy Father feels for the Belgian nation, so cruelly and so unjustly struck by war."

The Belgian government, it is stated, will study with the greatest deference the proposals made in the message.

Italian Socialists to Get Passports for London Parley

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—The Italian government, it was learned to-day, has decided to issue passports to duly authorized Socialists who desire to take part in the inter-Allied Socialist conference to be held in London.

To socialist reformists of Italy also will be granted passports to attend the conference.

Sweden's Envoy Pleased Expects U. S. to Modify Embargo on Exports

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 25.—Herman L. Lagercrantz, ex-Swedish Minister to the United States, expressed satisfaction at the result of his visit to America as a special envoy in connection with exports. "I have reason to believe a foundation has been laid for obtaining a satisfactory outcome of the negotiations," he said. "There is in America an opinion that Sweden has been feeding Germany and is still doing so, but I am glad to say American high officials I have met know better."

"The negotiations in America will be continued by Hjalmar Lundbohm, a prominent business man, who will sail soon. I trust I have made clear to the people in office that our demand for necessities is bona fide and that we are not acting as a medium for supplying America's enemies with any such things as we want from her."

Wilson Not to Address Congress on Peace

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—Talk in Congress that President Wilson might possibly address the national body on the subject of peace when he makes reply to Pope Benedict's proposal was effectively silenced to-day, when the White House let it be known in emphatic terms that the President had no such intention.

Some Senators who thought they had an inside view of what the President was planning discussed it as a probability yesterday. The statement at the White House to-day was unequivocal in its terms, however, that Mr. Wilson had not thought of going before Congress on the subject.

Michaelis Reports to Kaiser

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 25.—A Berlin official dispatch received here says Chancellor Michaelis visited headquarters and presented Emperor William with a report.

Some Berlin newspapers say the visit is connected with Alsace-Lorraine.

Japanese Mission To Take the Lead In War Talks Here

Envoys Not to Ask Anything, but to Plan for Victory

Menace in Far East

Nippon Feels That German Victory Would Mean Disaster

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—The Japanese mission, according to the Tokio press, will take the initiative in introducing topics for discussion and possible agreement with the United States. No war mission that has visited Washington has been so secluded and taciturn respecting its objects as that headed by Viscount Ishii, the reason being that Japan did not send it to ask for anything, but to collaborate with the American authorities on how Japan may better assist in bringing victory, "complete and definitive," as one Japanese statesman expressed it, to the nations at war with Germany.

From intimations dropped in Japanese circles here, interpreted in the light of comment in the Japanese press, a general idea of Japan's purposes and programme for the remainder of the war has been gathered. In a speech to the Diet last January Viscount Motono, the Japanese Foreign Minister, passing upon the vital issue in the war, expressed Japan's estimation of it when he said:

"The question is, whether the small and the great nations of Europe will be subjugated by Germany or not."

Japan from the beginning has acted the part of a faithful ally rather than as a nation originally involved in the struggle. She responded to England's first appeal for assistance, declaring her participation in the war was not only for the defence of Japan's interests, but of those of the Allies, and of the interests of humanity in general, as well. Japan bound herself in the declaration of London not to conclude a separate peace and subscribed to the

resolutions of the Allies' economic conference at Paris.

Japan's Part in War

In the beginning Japan's activities were limited to the Far East, and gradually she extended them until recently, when she dispatched torpedo boats to the Mediterranean to assist in the operations against the Austro-German submarines.

First, however, she restricted her cooperation with the Allies to expelling Germany from the Far East; and when the Allies were considering the joint answer to the American peace note, Japan, before subscribing to its declaration, sought and obtained a satisfactory understanding with them respecting the future disposition of the German colonies in the Far East captured by Japanese forces.

The United States will enter into the discussions with the Japanese mission with a fairly clear appreciation of Japan's foreign policies, which have been defined by Japanese officials. Their basis is the Anglo-Japanese alliance, considered by Japan as a necessary arrangement for guaranteeing tranquillity in the Far East and for protecting the mutual interests of the two empires.

No less essential for the preservation of the peace of the Orient, in Japan's estimation, is the Russo-Japanese alliance, negotiated in 1916, and which is believed to bind Russia to protect Japan's pretensions in Manchuria and East Inner Mongolia, where the Tokio government claims special interests. This treaty also is believed to guarantee Japan's respect for Russia's claims upon Outer Mongolia and Northern Manchuria.

Nippon's Interest in China

Japan has been explicit in declaring for the independence and territorial integrity of China, at the same time, however, emphasizing her own greater political and economic interests in China, based principally upon her geographical position. While the United States has not recognized Japan's paramount interest in China, Japan has not neglected to assert it.

Those are the underlying bases of whatever discussion will take place between Japan and the United States on the cooperation between Japan and America in the further prosecution of the war. Japan maintains that without a complete victory over Germany the Far East will be in danger, as an alliance with a defeated England would be of little value if a victorious Germany should return to the Orient. That lesson has been brought home to Japan by the near collapse of Russia, involving the steady movement eastward of the German army.

Obligations to Japan

To that extent, Japan's national interests are threatened. Japan feels, however, that she has discharged her full duty to Britain as an ally, and that both Britain and Britain's associates in the war and the neutral nations as well are obligated to Japan for the services she has already rendered. Foreign

Minister Motono, in a speech to the Diet, specified America in name as having benefited from the naval operations of Japan in the Pacific, by which, in cooperation with the British, the Pacific Ocean was freed of the German menace to America's commerce.

It is known that there is a hearty desire on the part of the Japanese government to enter into a lasting economic rapprochement with the United States, especially for developing the latent resources of the United States, which Japan also, which is being assisted by both Japan and the United States, and would involve shipping, tonnage which Japan possesses being urgently needed for Allied use.

Confident predictions are made here that important developments, including an extension of Japan's warlike activities, will follow the conferences in Washington.

Middies Play Japanese Anthem for Mission

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—Looking forward to further sightseeing at historic American places, the Japanese mission returned here to-night from Annapolis, where they spent the day inspecting the Naval Academy. To-night they rested, but to-morrow they will board the naval yacht Mayflower and sail down the Patomac to Mount Vernon, to pay tribute to the memory of George Washington.

Scenes in historic Annapolis to-day delighted the visitors and aroused in them the keenest desire to visit West Point later. Having admired the spick and span academy literally from the tomb of John Paul Jones to the top of the highest flagpole, they anxiously inquired about West Point, its comparative beauty, and the possibility of its being visited. Plans contemplate their going there soon.

The day was a happy one for the mission. From the moment they stepped from their private train at the main gate of the academy grounds, to be greeted by Captain Eberle, superintendent of the institution, until they waved a last farewell to him, they smiled and expressed the greatest admiration for the institution.

A company of marines, standing at attention, greeted the mission as they stepped through the main gate, and a few minutes later, after a walk across the campus, they found more than seven hundred plebes, garbed in khaki and white puttees, stretched across Worden Field, awaiting review. With the mission and Captain Eberle standing at attention, the academy band began playing "Kimigayo," the Japanese national air. Appreciative smiles played across the faces of the visitors as the thrilling air swept across the field. The plebes then executed a few evolutions and withdrew amid applause.

Thenceforth the visitors were given the freedom of the academy. They inspected a huge bell on the campus, which Commodore Perry brought from Japan years ago.

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